

Message Text

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ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 H-02 DHA-02

ORM-02 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01

PA-01 USIA-06 /072 W

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P R 170530Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5798

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USDAO/BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

JCRC SAMAE SAN THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 6581

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VN, LA

SUBJECT: RETURN OF REMAINS FROM DRV; POSSIBLE CODEL

TRIP TO VIENTIANE

REF: STATE 296567 (DTG 162342Z DEC 75), NOTAL

1. APPRECIATE RECEIPT OF INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL.

WE WILL DETERMINE FROM UNHCR OFFICE HERE WHETHER AIRCRAFT

TRANSPORTING REMAINS WILL MAKE A STOP IN VIENTIANE

DECEMBER 21 AND, IF SO, WILL HAVE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT.

2. WE WOULD WELCOME VISIT BY CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF HOUSE

SELECT COMMITTEE AT ANY TIME. IN THIS CONNECTION, HOWEVER,

WE WISH TO STRESS IMPORTANCE OF EARLIEST POSSIBLE NOTIFI-

CATION OF FIRM CODEL DATES BOTH FOR APPOINTMENTS, WHICH

WE MUST SEEK THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY BY MEANS OF DIPLOMATIC

NOTE, AND BECAUSE OF CURRENT TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS.

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3. THE ONLY CARRIER REGULARLY FLYING BETWEEN BANGKOK AND VIENTIANE AT PRESENT IS THAI AIRWAYS, AND ITS FLIGHTS FROM HERE TO BANGKOK NORMALLY ARE FULLY BOOKED DAYS OR EVEN WEEKS IN ADVANCE. SECOND SECTIONS ARE SOMETIMES ADDED TO MEET DEMAND, BUT SUCH DECISIONS ARE EVIDENTLY TAKEN AT LAST MINUTE AND IN BANGKOK. IF CODEL WOULD WISH TO TRAVEL FROM VIENTIANE TO BANGKOK ON DECEMBER 24, FOR EXAMPLE, WE SHOULD BEGIN IMMEDIATELY TO TRY TO GET RESERVATIONS AND WOULD HAVE NO ASSURANCE OF SUCCESS.

4. ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TRAVEL BY U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT BASED IN THAILAND. PROBLEM HERE IS THAT WE HAVE NOT REQUESTED CLEARANCE FOR SUCH A FLIGHT IN RECENT MONTHS, WITH SINGLE EXCEPTION OF MEDEVAC OF DYING AMCIT IN JULY, AND CANNOT ESTIMATE HOW NEW GOVERNMENT WULD RESPOND TO SUCH A REQUEST. FURTHER BACKGROUND ON THIS SUBJECT APPERS IN VIENTIANE 6291, NOTAL, CONCERNING EARLIER PROPOSED VISIT BY SAME CODEL, AND IN VIENTIANE 6480 AND 6559, NOTAL, CONCERNING PROPOSED FLIGHT BY BANGKOK ATTACHE AIRCRAFT FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EARLIEST POSSIBLE ADVICE OF CODEL'S PRECIDE PLANS, INCLUDING DAATES AND REQUESTED PROGRAM, FOR TRIP TO VIENTIANE.
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